

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Thursday, April 16, 2009

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

TEA PARTY PROTEST



Deedy Vaughan participates in a rally sponsored by West Virginia Concerned Citizens to protest government spending on the steps of the West Virginia state Capitol in Charleston, W.Va., Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

MLB ROUNDUP



Tampa Bay Rays pitcher J.P. Howell reacts as he leaves the field after giving up a run to the New York Yankees in the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday night April 14, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Yankees won 3-2.

See Sports Today



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 49.25

Setar & MetaCorp present 3-D digital movies come to Aruba

Setar 3D Experience at The Cinemas Paseo and Renaissance

PALM BEACH-MetaCorp y Setar have joined forces to introduce High Definition technology to Aruba with 3-D and Dolby Surround Sound for the ultimate cinema experience.

Aruba is now the only country in the world that has converted 100% to digital projection.

Clients receive special 3D glasses upon entrance to the movie so they can enjoy the incredible sensation of the combined 3D experience together with the surround sound. This technology uses a 50 layer coating and special curved lenses to create the three dimensional effect with a very impressionable quality. The 3D glasses are specially made scratch-proof and because of the extra expenses made in purchasing the best quality glasses, the Cinemas asks



Photo by Julia Renfro

that you please return the glasses when you leave.

SETAR always identifies themselves with quality and innovation in technology and is pleased to join MetaCorp in the SETAR 3D project. As an honor in the union of



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Photo by Julia Renfro

these two companies, the Cinemas at both the Paseo Herencia Mall and the Renaissance Marketplace carry the name SETAR 3D. The three movies currently showing to introduce the 3D technology are "Monsters

vs. Aliens", "Coraline" and "My Bloody Valentine".

Tonight, April 16, 2009, The Cinemas invites the general public to enjoy the new 3D premiers.

Continued on page 7

NEW McMAX Max size Max flavor



i'm lovin' it



Looking for the legendary seafood entrees?

The freshest seafood is at Moby Dick's

Don't spend another day without a bloody oyster

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your

craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

Don't leave Aruba without trying the BLOODY OYSTER! It is the ultimate delicacy known by deep sea connoisseurs. This is heavenly combination of Tomato Juice, Cold Vodka, Oysters, Shrimp, Tabasco, Lime and Pepper.

MOBY DICK'S
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
Zeeuwse Oysters
CRASSOSTREA GIGAS
Live Dutch Oysters on the half shell
Specially selected for
Moby Dick's seafood Aruba

schmidt ROTTERDAM

586-8333 / 11:30am - 11:00 pm Paseo Herencia, Palm Beach



Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua Barcelona draws a crowd of island guests and locals every Friday evening for a fantastic night of Spanish Dancing and Paella. Everyone loves the Tapas Pata Negra, Sangria and Flamenco show in the great upstairs atmosphere of this popular downtown restaurant.

Downtown Aventura Mall Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Join us tomorrow night for the most incredible night of your life!

Casa Tua Palm Beach
open 5pm to 11pm.

Casa Tua Downtown
open 11am to 11pm, Sundays
5pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations call

Palm Beach: **586 8470**

Downtown: **588 5695**



Or ask your concierge.





Vacationers enjoy the holiday at Aqua Grill

PLAM BEACH – Whether celebrating Easter, Passover, or just here on the island for a family spring break getaway, Aqua Grill is a top dining choice on the island.

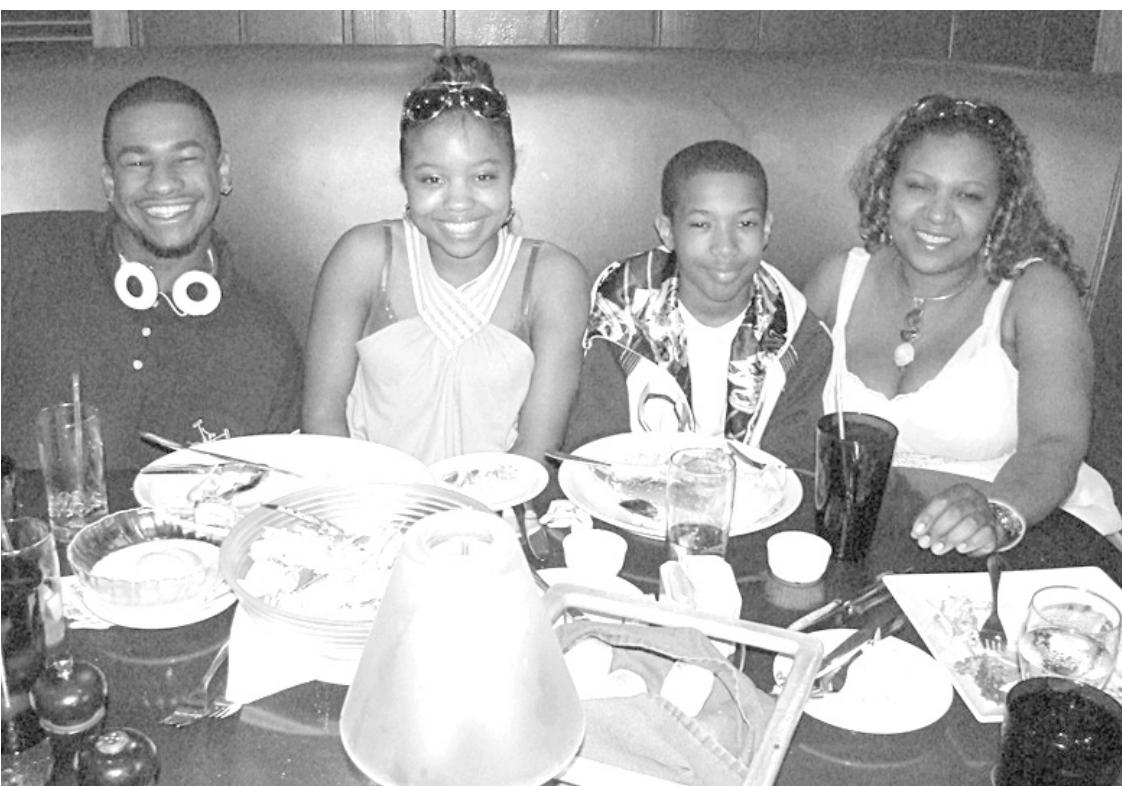
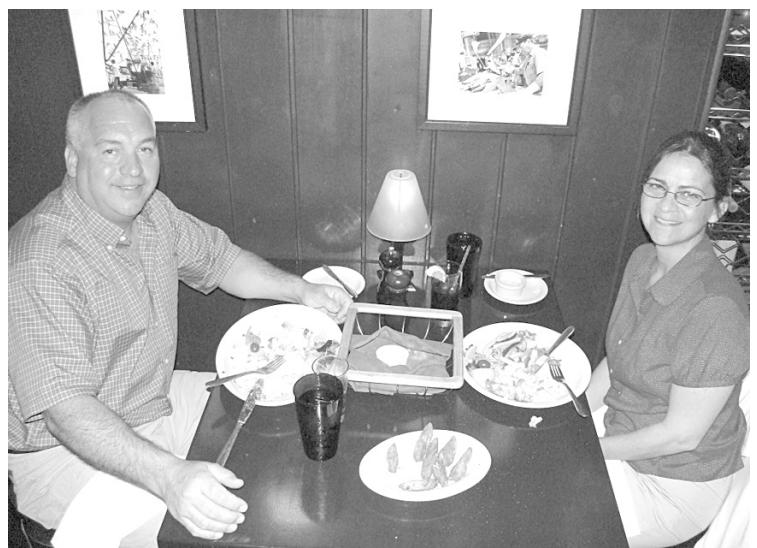
Located in the heart of Palm Beach, next door to Amazonia, Aqua Grill restaurant is the international critically-acclaimed seafood restaurant that serves fresh-only seafood caught by local fisherman and jetted in daily from regions abroad.

Live Maine lobster, the island's largest raw bar, and classic and contemporary seafood dishes are overseen by an award-winning culinary team and prepared in an open-view kitchen.

This week, our camera snapped the Pringle family, here for the first time from Virginia Beach, VA; the Murphy's, from New Hampshire, who are enjoying



their fourth stay on the island; and the Petrucci family from Connecticut who made their first trip to Aruba back in 1986 for their honeymoon and have made several trips back since.



Amazonia
CHURRASCARIA

For an ULTIMATE dining experience...

**Bring this ad and receive
15% DISCOUNT!**

Not valid with other promotions. Beverages and desserts not included.
Offer not valid for salad bar only and kids menu. Six persons maximum - one certificate per table!

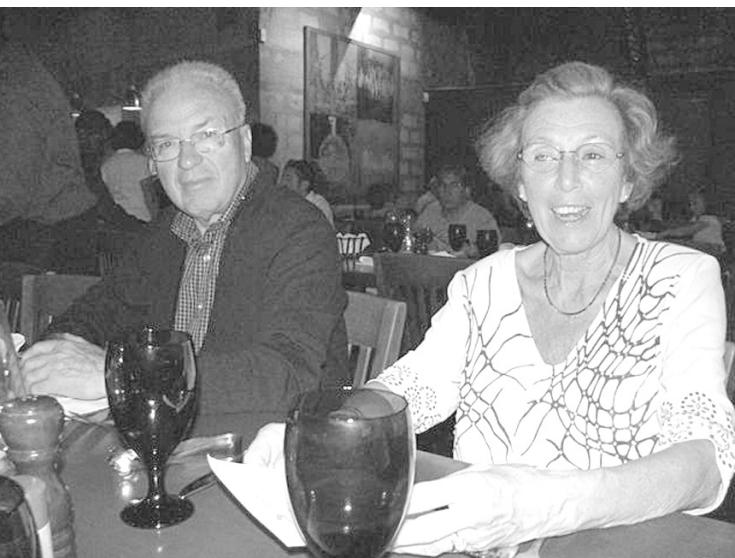
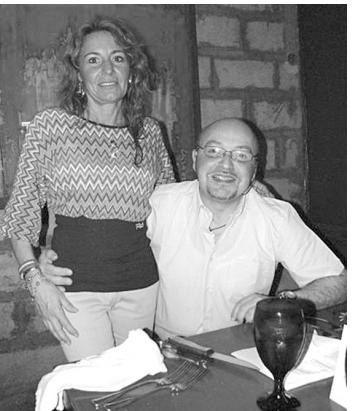
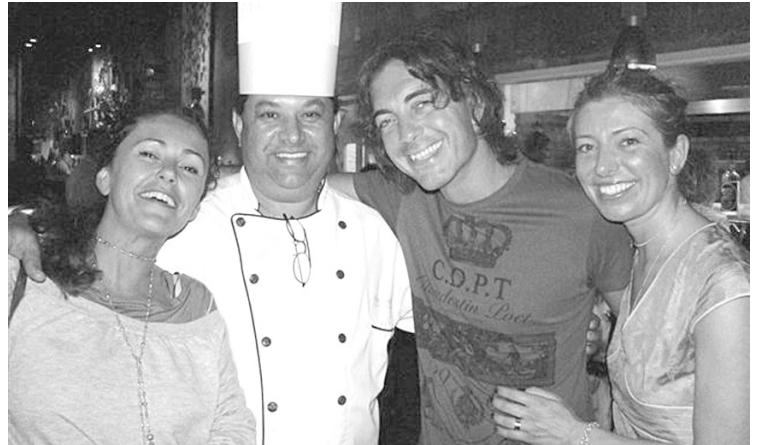


Amazonia Churrascaria invaded by Saidel Spa



PALM BEACH – Promo Viaggi, helped bring Italian company Saidel Spa to Aruba. Ninety of the traveling party, are all winners of an incentive trip awarded for sales agents moving a large quantity of spa and bathroom accessories. Owner Paola Reggiro Bruni, and reps from Promo Viaggi, Laura and Valentina report the Italians just love Amazonia Churrascaria and they intend on invading the Brazilian style steakhouse on Palm Beach a number of times over the next few weeks.

Amazonia Churrascaria helped convert the group of pasta-lovers into meat-lovers as the roaming gauchos did their best to feed and entertain the crowd, in Italian. The Italians will continue to come to Aruba and to Amazonia Churrascaria all spring as Aruba recently signed an agreement with an Italian tour operator, bringing a charter in every week from Milan, bridging the amazing distance between the boot shaped Apennine Peninsula and the Caribbean paradise.



Experience Aruba's Seafood Sensation!

Chic New England décor • New al fresco terrace

Located across from the Hyatt and Occidental Resort,
next door to Amazonia Churrascaria.
Open Monday thru Saturday 6pm - 11pm.
Sunday 5pm - 11PM.

"This hip restaurant is heaven
on earth for seafood lovers"

Fodor's Travel Guide



For information and reservations: Tel: 586-5900 • E-mail: aqua-grill@setarnet.aw • www.aqua-grill.com

Curacao Challenge windsurf slalom races deemed a great success

Steven Max Lageveen, 10, from Aruba, places second in the mini-junior category



WILLEMSTAD -- There were many memorable moments during the Curacao Challenge windsurf slalom races that were held this Easter weekend. Competitors sped over the open ocean and tried their best to conquer that very much wanted first place. Sails in all the colors of the rainbow could be seen in front the Sea Aquarium Beach. An unbelievable 83 participants took part in the first International Curacao Challenge, ranging in age from 6 to 60, hailing from many different countries like Holland, Bonaire, Aruba, the US and Canada.

All day Friday and Sunday, figure-8 races were held in very choppy seas with very strong winds, which was every windsurfer's dream come true. On Saturday the downwind long distance race took off from the beach at Wet and Wild and participants landed on the beach next to Curacao Marriott Resort after rounding a buoy a mile off shore in front of the Ana Baai. It was a true challenge. Once they arrived on land competitors had to run and touch the yellow promotional Curacao Challenge Pick-up truck parked on the

beach. On Monday four more Slalom figure-8 races were held and everyone agreed that the wind and ocean conditions were superb.

The elegant award ceremony was held during a fabulous BBQ dinner Monday evening, where the winners were awarded well-deserved prizes.

In the category Open Men first place went to the unbelievably fast and skilled Taty Frans from Bonaire, who received an Insel air ticket to Miami, Champagne from Albert Heijn and a 1,000,-Naf cash prize.

Second place went to Kiri Thode from Bonaire, he received a cash prize of 750,- Naf. Third place went to Curacao's one and only Ingmar Schnitzler, who received a cash prize of 500,- Naf.

All award winners received a very well stocked goodie bag and a very special towel with the Curacao Challenge logo embroidered on it, from head sponsor Albert Heijn.

In the sport division first place was taken by Daan van der Sluis (Curacao), second place by Nick Brouwer (Curacao)

and third place by Wilco Faber (Curacao). First place in the Women category went to Monique from Bonaire.

Felix Martina from Curacao won first place in the Juniors category (17 and under), Alex Da Costa-Gomez from Curacao won second place and Ezri Heymans from Bonaire, won third place. It's fair to mention that the competition was really tough and it was a very exciting race to watch.

In the category Mini-Juniors (13 and under) first place went to Amado Vrieswijk (13) from Bonaire, second place was won by the youngest competitor of the Curacao Challenge races on the ocean, Steven Max Lageveen (10) from Aruba and third place went to Jurgen Saragoza (12) from Bonaire. These guys showed unbelievable talent, so watch out for these waterbabies. Every single competitor agreed at the end of this well organized, exciting and especially fun event; they all want to come back to compete in the Curacao Challenge 2010.

Enclosed pictures by Els Kroon.

Aqua Spa at the Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino is open



CURACAO - After two years of planning and construction Aqua Spa at the Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino opened its doors last week prepared to beautify, cleanse, heal and revitalize guests coming in its elegant doors.

The brand new establishment promoting physical, spiritual and mental tranquility offers nine treatment rooms, a rain-like Vichy shower, four relaxation terraces, a sauna with unique ocean views, a cold plunge pool, as well as a rich and varied menu of massages, facials, mud wraps, manicure, pedicure and hair treatments in a state of the art salon.

Aqua Spa is the first luxury spa on the island of Curacao, whose menu boasts Body and Head Touch Therapy designed to induce total relaxation in 50 and 75 minute sessions. Some of the treatments at Aqua Spa are signature novel creations and include Massage a la Curacao, an exciting Toning & Slimming Massage, a scientific Detoxifying Massage, a result oriented Anti-Cellulite Massage, the Rif Fort Hot Stone Therapy and a Deep-Tissue Massage, all designed to gratify individuals, couples, groups, wedding parties, friends and family members.

Guests may also enjoy a wide variety of massage add-ons such as Paraffin Treatments for Hands or Feet and the much-enjoyed Reflexology Foot Massage. Taking advantage of the island's warm sun and gorgeous seascapes, the Infinity Beach Massages and the Aqua Cabana Massages, will be given outdoors in nature, in 15 to 45 minute sessions.

Locals and visitors may enjoy Aqua Spa's Signature facials, each designed to benefit specific areas and cater to individual preferences, among them Pro-Collagen Marine Spa Facial, Oxygen Lifting Facial, Rejuvenation Facial, Whitening Facial, Rebalancing Facial and AquaLine Soothing Facial, which are also available in a gentleman's face care version, with Micro-Dermabrasion Facial Treatment as a facial add-on, in addition to optional eye treatments, enzymatic peeling, and aromatherapy.

Aqua Spa is adjacent to the four-diamond Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino. The multi-million Antillean florin investment now employs 30 highly trained professionals who went through a rigorous training regimen to prepare



them to provide the best services on the island.

The 8,300 sq.ft. facility occupies three floors at the historic Rif Fort. The floors are linked with a connecting elevator, including a roof top infinity pool Jacuzzi overlooking the ocean and the passing cruise ships.

A spokesperson for Aqua Spa reports the facility is fully dedicated to patrons' serenity, and caters to individuals seeking peaceful pampering, rejuvenating healing and restoration.

The gentle and supportive spa ritual was designed to immediately relax guests with a complimentary beverage upon arrival, a plush bath robe and comfortable slippers, in a quiet and soothing, beautifully designed environment.

Refreshments including herbal teas and fresh drinks, chocolate truffles, artisanal cheeses and fresh fruit, are available while patrons are relaxing in the beautifully decorated waiting rooms. And patrons will be happy to know that all treatments at Aqua Spa conclude with a signature foot relaxation cleansing and a scalp massage.

Aqua Spa is offering membership of \$75 USD, which includes the unlimited use of the sauna,

relaxation terraces, beverages and 'Spa Tasters'. The membership also features one complimentary spa treatment per month, and patrons may choose between Reflexology Foot Massage, Heaven & Earth Massage, Mani-Pedi Cure or a Hair Cut, as their special treat.

The spa also flaunts an array of customized corporate packages ranging from corporate events to corporate gifts. All are well suited for companies who would like to reward and/or celebrate with their most valuable clients and staff members. Corporate events can be coordinated in conjunction with the many restaurants offered at the Renaissance Resort & Casino in Curacao.

Those who are fond of the spa life-style, will be issued a loyalty spa-goer card, offering complimentary upgrades, to reward the frequent users with redeemable stars.

Getting there is easy. Aqua Spa designed two elegant entrances, one via the hotel and one via the fort, and you are invited to try the hairdressing salon, manicure & pedicure, massages, for individuals, for couples and/or for a group, starring the fine Neoderma products, well suited for the tropics.

Continued from front page



**RENAISSANCE®
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Havana Dance
The hottest Cuban Show
on the island

The biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana

\$49 per person

Children under 12 pay \$25
Showtime: Tuesday through Saturday at 9 p.m.

Tickets available at Box Office, Lobby Concierge desk of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. De Palm Tours, Pelican, Red Sail Sports activity desks at your hotels

For more information call 583 6000 ext. 6115 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357

Get a 25% DISCOUNT on show tickets when you purchase your tickets at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater

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Open daily from 5:30 p.m.
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www.lgsmiths.com



MetaCorp was the first to introduce the Cinemas to Aruba in 1920 when the island only had 10,000 inhabitants. During the last 89 years, MetaCorp has continued to invest and keep the cinemas at the highest level of service, systems, lighting, projectors, screens and cutting edge sound. Photos by Julia Renfro

"MUSA" Art Café opens on Main St.

Former ACCESS ART Gallery offers comfort and artsy charm



By Jan Falcone
Special to Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD - A brand new art café has opened upstairs on Main St. in Oranjestad, upstairs from La Moderna. "MUSA" Art Café is not only an art gallery,

but a real café with a varied menu of delicious meals, snacks and beverages. The décor is varied and beautiful – surrounded by the art pieces for sale, it is an inspiring place. There are several sitting areas, each with its own flavor,

a dining table, a nice big bed to relax, and an open air terrace. The grand piano, there since the space was ACCESS ART Gallery, has stayed, with future concerts and musical activities planned as well. The space has been transformed into a very special and unique place amongst Aruba's day and nightspots..

There is the original bar on the terrace as it was in ACCESS ART Gallery, but another one also inside. The space has been used wisely. Angela Croes, owner, is the one with all the artsy

charm and taste. It was she who designed the entire café. Her well selected antique décor makes it the perfect spot for meetings and conversations.

Therefore MUSA is not just gallery space, but a meeting place where art meets the enthusiast, a relaxed gathering spot for sharing visions and exchanging ideas. Thursdays are movie nights at 8 p.m. There are also live concerts planned, and live music during lunch and dinner. They are offering space for rent for private parties, meetings, workshops,

lectures, etc., as well. The staff believes that the public will like their art café project because they will feel the easiness of the space and taste the love that goes into everything they do.

Guests will also be able to enjoy small dinners with excellent imported wines.

"MUSA" Art Café is located at Caya Betico Croes 10-18, which is the ex-ACCESS ART Gallery. Opening hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 A.M. to 1 A.M. Call them for a reservation or info at: 588-7837



MVCI celebrates 25 years of Unforgettable vacations

Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club remain prime locations



ORANJESTAD – In its silver anniversary year, Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) will welcome back an astonishing 400,000 vacation owners to its individual properties in Aruba as well as throughout the world. In 1984, Marriott became the first branded hospitality company by nearly a decade to enter the timeshare industry. Its entry into the market was followed by a string of successes, which include the award-winning vacation ownership properties of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club and Marriott's Aruba Surf Club.

Built on the "Marriott Way" philosophy, with excellence in accommodations, amenities and especially customer service a primary focus, vacation ownership with MVCI has flourished to now include choices of 50 resorts

in 30 destinations with more than 10,600 villas worldwide. While it is often the beauty of the properties themselves, set in idyllic environments, which win over MVCI owners and members, the benefits of quality management and unique flexibility ensure lifelong satisfaction in unforgettable vacation experiences.

The industry took notice of MVCI's winning ways, bestowing the business world's highest honor of the Stevie™ on MVCI in different categories over several years. MVCI won for "Best Sales Organization" at the inaugural of the American Business Awards in 2003, and again in 2006 and 2008. In 2007, MVCI also received recognition as the "Best Customer Service Organization". The secret for

MVCI's success, in achieving both tremendous growth and high satisfaction rates among its clientele, can be attributed to an immense amount of imagination and innovation.

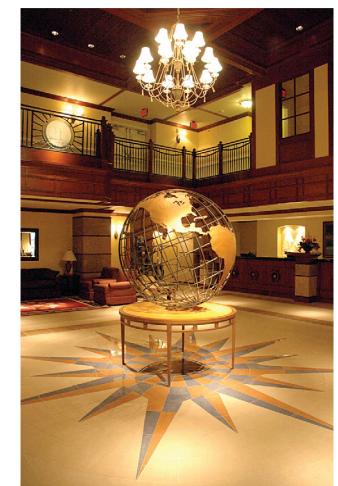
MVCI has, in fact, managed to redefine the timeshare industry. It was the first to replace industry-standard fixed weeks with seasonally-based, floating time. By tailoring ownership to better suit its members, MVCI has quickly expanded. In 1996, it was the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Europe with the opening of Marriott's Marbella Beach Resort on Spain's Costa del Sol. Another first was achieved in 2001 with the opening of Marriott's Phuket Beach Club in Thailand representing the milestone of the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Asia. Along with the option to exchange weeks with priority within the Marriott Vacation Club portfolio, MVCI owners also have access to Interval International's global system of more than 2,300 resorts in over 75 countries. With an ability to vacation almost anytime of the year, anywhere in the world, MVCI owners enjoy countless possibilities.

In Aruba, many MVCI members choose to remain at the treasured location of either Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club or Marriott's Aruba Surf Club for their annual vacation, keeping the



destination on the top tier of the most requested locations. But on the occasions that travel is not possible, MVCI even offers owners the opportunity to trade their time for Marriott Rewards points, or even rent their weeks. With MVCI celebrating its 25 years of unforgettable vacations, there is no better time to consider the benefits of vacation ownership with the Marriott. For a limited time only, on certain inventories, owners and non-owners purchasing at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club are eligible for special offers in celebration of this 25th anniversary.

For more information about MVCI, please visit the sales gallery located in Marriott's



Aruba Ocean Club, call Tel: 586-2641, or visit the website: www.vacationclub.com or www.marriottsurbasurfclub.com.

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.



ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?
A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



FRESH FISH TONIGHT?

...AT DRIFTWOOD RESTAURANT
T. (297) 583-2515

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



Davies & Kalbrunner honored at Divi Village Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at Divi Village vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Divi Village they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for more than 30 years:

Kathleen, Melissa and Allison Davies and also Russel & Julie Kalbrunner were honored as Distinguished Visitors.

On pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes & Saskya rasmijn from ATA together with all honorees and also Gloria from the Divi Village Resort



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- Dine Indoors or Alfresco

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Reservations recommended.

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Voted #1 Restaurant in the Caribbean

A nighttime photograph of the Divi Village Resort. The building is illuminated, and there is a large, well-maintained swimming pool in the foreground. Palm trees are visible around the pool area.

BON DIA *Arub*

Si bo ta bebe no

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Special friends of Aruba honored at Divi Village Resort

ORANJESTAD - Recently at Divi Village vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest

Aruban singer Mirugia de Cuba celebrates thirty-something



Hiep hiep hoera! Today we can sing Happy Birthday to one of the island favorite singers Mirugia de Cuba. A big congratulations to you for a great "39 years old" and we all wish you many years more with health, happiness, love and money. Remember to you have to treat us all to a Sangria tonight.

A big kiss and hugs from your sister Laila, your love Kevin, your babies Naomi, Zinah y Kevitus, your mom Ligia y dad Yotti, grandparents Nana, Papa y Mama, and all of your family Harms, Kelly, De Cuba, Oduber, Kock y van Romondt y last but not least all of your friends.. We ALL love you very much!

Enjoy your day!



certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Divi Village they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Distinguished Guests after visiting Aruba for more than 10



years: Madeline Heslin, David & Shirley Richards, Gerald & Dolores Brown, Peter & Monica Burke.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also Gloria y Griffith from the Divi Village Resort.

Shop & Go Food & Liquor Store

NIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 10:30PM

Cold Beer prices ranges from \$2.
Souvenirs a wide variety of snacks.
Also available Rums made in Aruba
at a good price.

T-Shirt at \$4. / Aruba bags \$8.

COLD WINE VARIETY
Bring this Ad & receive a FREE gift with
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9:00am - 9:00pm

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Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
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Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!



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For the best Dutch
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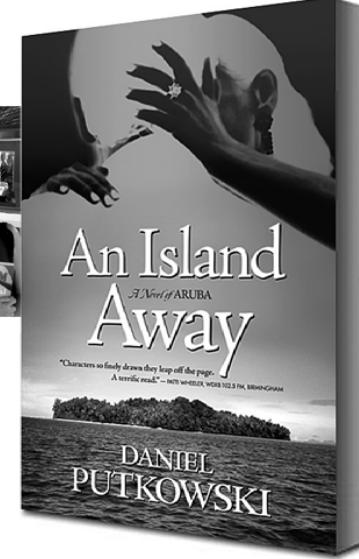
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Tropical Temptations - Costa Linda

Stevan & Catherine Ferullo honored at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected

by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree they call their home away from home. Stevan & Catherine Ferullo were honored as Distinguished visitors after visiting Aruba for more than 17 years.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes & Saskya Rasmijn from ATA together Stevan & Catherine Ferullo and also Mrs. Aleja from Holiday Inn Sun Spree.



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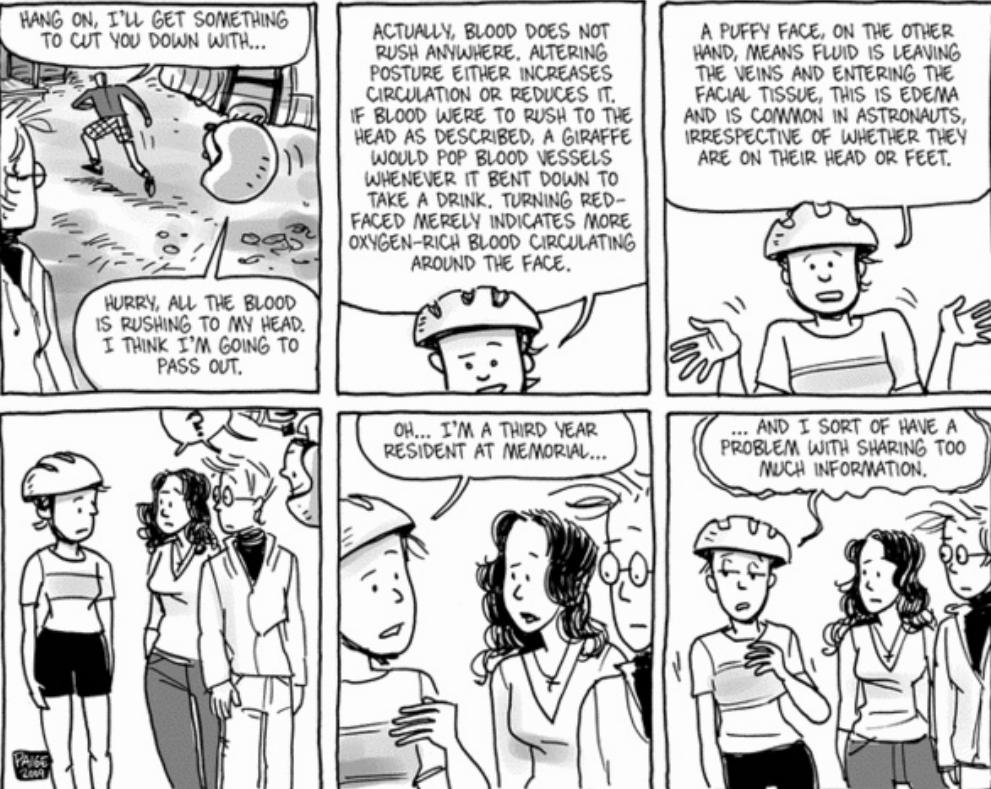
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The next global economic shock?

New York — As American financial strains have at last begun to show some signs of healing, another risk from the European side of the ocean has become more evident. For some time now, America's friends and associates on the other side of the Atlantic have, as is their habit, enjoyed blaming all problems on America's risky ways.

But of late, it has become clear that Europe's own financial wizards have opened their financial institutions to a potentially bigger problem: Eastern European and Asian debt. The losses could even surpass those of the subprime meltdown. Though at present the potential problems deserve the tag "risk" and not "probability," investors need to remain alert to

the situation.

The problem for much of the emerging world is that the global economic downturn has severely hurt exports, their main — and in some cases, only — engine of economic growth.

Take China. Its exports have fallen by about 17 percent, as have Singapore's. Others have fared a lot worse. South Korea's exports have plunged by 21 percent, and Taiwan's by 36 percent. Similar figures typify the situations elsewhere in Asia and in Eastern Europe.

Not surprisingly, given the export-oriented growth model of these economies, overall economic growth has also turned sharply downward. Singapore's gross domestic product (GDP) declined 11.5 percent from a year ago, while South Korea's economic output sunk 4.2 percent.

In the Ukraine, December industrial production registered a 26.6 percent decline from a year ago. Other nations, from the Czech Republic to Hungary to Russia, have experienced sharp contractions, too.

The problem for Western European finance is that it holds most of the international loans in these sinking economies. European banks, for instance, hold some 54 percent of the \$1.4 trillion of foreign bank loans residing in the Asian emerging economies. (For perspective, American banks hold only 15 percent of such debt.) Of the \$1.8 trillion of foreign bank loans in Eastern Europe, more than

70 percent resides in Western European banks.

The economic difficulties in these regions are bound to pressure European finance, where, according to the International Monetary Fund, bank leverage exceeds that of American banking by 50 percent. It is hard to make American banks look prudent, but the Europeans seem to have managed.

The aggressive nature of European lending has created a particularly difficult regulatory situation should circumstances require a rescue operation, as the American subprime excesses did in the United States. Because European banks are far more extended than American banks are, their governments and even the European Central Bank lack sufficient resources to replace lost capital, as the Federal Reserve and the Treasury are doing in the United States.

In contrast to American banking, which holds assets equal to some 85 percent of US GDP, Eurozone bank assets in total amount to 330 percent of Eurozone GDP. What makes matters still more precarious, these aggregate figures look moderate when compared to the lending ratios of some individual Eurozone members. Irish banks, for instance, took on debt equal to almost 11 times their national GDP. Dutch banks took on debt equal to seven times their national GDP, and Belgian banks took on debt equal to four times their national GDP.

The potentially troubled loans in

Eastern Europe and Asia could amount to some 33 percent of Eurozone GDP, a far higher figure than subprime in the United States, which, in the worst calculated scenarios, amounts to some 8 percent of American GDP.

So far, these borrowers, if they have not managed to remain entirely current on their obligations, have paid sufficiently well to avoid the troubles implicit in these comparisons. If, as expected, the American economic situation can stabilize in the second part of this year, and China can sustain an adequate growth rate as it reorients its economy toward a domestic growth engine, there is a good chance that European finance and, by implication, global finance, will avoid the dangers implicit in these great vulnerabilities. But still, for the time being, investors need to recognize the significant risks.

This vulnerability may also explain why the Europeans are so focused on regulation and have chosen to emphasize it above the kinds of fiscal stimulus that the Obama administration has pushed. On the one hand, they want to garner all the resources they have should the banking sector need them at some future date. On the other, the emphasis on regulations might well reflect an urgent need to prevent this from happening again.

Milton Ezrati is senior economic strategist at Lord Abbett, a money management firm.



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From Michigan to Aruba

Di Benedetto Family enjoys Paradise



NOORD – A fun filled week for the Di Benedetto family from Macomb Michigan.

Kathy Di Benedetto is a childhood friend of journalist Angela Munzenhofer and they reconnected with their children and had an enjoyable Easter break.

Kathy's husband Melino is a business owner for home improvements and was in need of a relaxing vacation. They have two children Marco, 13 and Elaina, 9 who are in seventh heaven on Aruba. Everyday Marco & Elaina repeated how their day was perfect and amazing and the next day was more fulfilling with more Aruba adventure. This family vacation was filled with snorkeling, DePalm Island, Morgan's Island, an all day adventure touring the island, swimming at almost every beach, flying a kite, sand dunes. Art's watersport with action packed water fun and so much more. Their favorite dinners were at the Buccaneer restaurant which was spectacular with the incredible 7,500 gallon aquarium and for an Asian experience they enjoyed Blossoms restaurant.

The Munzenhofer family had a great time making sure that no stone was left unturned for the



DiBenadetto family.

"Our Aruba vacation was an absolute dream come true vacation, we want to thank Angela and her family for making our

vacation one to always remember" replied Kathy and thanks for the beautiful memories.

Photos by Bella Aruba Photography



ARUBA

Hard Rock Cafe is “over the top” for fun, food and reviving great memories

The official opening of **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** in January had all the glitz and glamour of any Hollywood carpet event, and the newest addition to this world famous brand of casual eateries is an entertaining journey through musical history, as well as offering a guaranteed great meal at a very reasonable price. Music is so much a part of our lives, often interwoven with the landmark moments; the first kiss, a marriage proposal, the first dance as man and wife.

How many times have you heard or said, “**Honey, they are playing our song!**” Hard Rock has all those great

songs and videos in their play list, enveloping patrons in a world of music that brings back those special memories of moments that changed one's life. Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton in 1971 and located right next door to Eric Clapton's recording studio in London, the first **Hard Rock Cafe** became an instant hit with those that loved a good “old-fashioned American hamburger” and started a legend, resulting in one of the largest and most successful leisure franchises existing today.

Hard Rock's remarkable music memorabilia collection began with a red fender given

the founders by Eric Clapton, to mark his special table where he came to dine on a daily basis.

Not to be outdone, other great names such as The Who followed his example; eventually leading to the assortment of music memorabilia that includes anything from a lock of hair to a five-ton psychedelic bus.

In **Aruba** you find no buses, but a fascinating collection of instruments, posters, wild and wicked costumes and

other miscellaneous items, many of them autographed by the legendary performers they commemorate.

Dozens of bits of memorabilia and high definition plasma screens create the music world ambiance that defines **Hard Rock Cafe**, as well as their diverse menu of fresh fajitas, authentic western barbecue, and of course, their famous certified Angus beef burgers, huge and juicy, the way a burger was meant to be.



Owners of the Hard Rock Cafe Aruba are particularly proud of the double bar that serves both inside and out; a stunning canopied terrace allows them to take full advantage of Aruba's famous tropical breezes and agreeable climate.

Opening night featured The Wailers, the famous band that made their name with Bob Marley, direct from Jamaica. The appearance of such noted groups and live rock tributes are a trademark of Hard Rock Cafés around the world.

Hard Rock Cafe Aruba is located in the South Beach Mall across from the Radisson Resort and open seven days a week, from 10:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and until 2:00 AM on the weekends. It is comforting to know there is a great place to go for late night munching and fun times within an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach Resorts offering not only quality food and beverage at reasonable prices, but a musical trip down Memory Lane!



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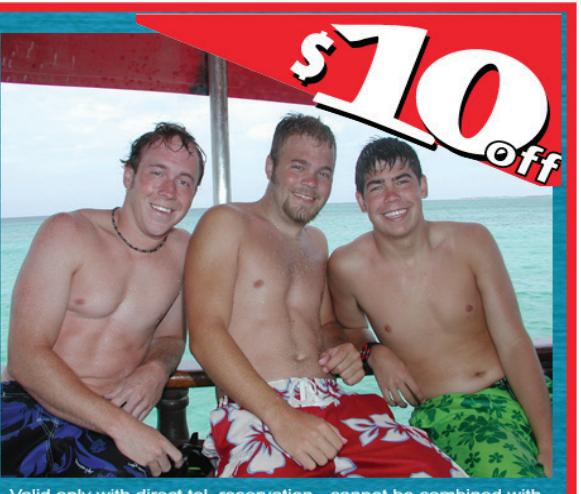
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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, April 16, 2009



Protestors take part in a tea party demonstration, Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in Lafayette Park, across from the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Anti-tax 'tea party' protesters turn out for deadline day

JOE BIESK

Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP) — Anti-tax protesters began gathering at state Capitols and in neighborhoods across the United States on Wednesday to kick off a series of demonstrations.

Organizers said they are angry about government spending since Obama took office, most notably the \$787 billion stimulus package Congress passed into law earlier this year with the idea of turning around the hard-hit economy. They say the movement has developed organically through online social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter and through exposure on the conservative Fox News channel. And while they insist it's a nonpartisan effort, it has been seized on by many prominent Republicans who view it as a promising way for the party to reclaim its momentum.

The protests have also been

promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington and led by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey.

The protests, deemed "tea parties," are designed to echo the rebellion of the Boston Tea Party in 1773 when colonists protested British "taxation without representation" by dumping taxed tea into Boston Harbor. In Hartford, Connecticut, police estimated 3,000 people showed up at the state Capitol, where nearly two decades earlier an estimated 40,000 had converged in protest after the state enacted its personal income tax.

This time, many carried makeshift pitchforks and signs with messages aimed at the Democrats who control Congress and the White House.

Faith Burns of East Granby rang an antique school bell and wore a sandwich board that read "Stop the Madness"

with a picture of a pig in a circle crossed out.

"There needs to be some common sense restored to government at every level, Washington, in our state and in our towns," she said. "And besides it's so much gosh-darned fun to ring this bell."

In Des Moines, Iowa, more than 1,000 people gathered on the steps of the state Capitol wearing red shirts proclaiming "revolution is brewing."

"The system is severely broken and we the people let it get that way," said Des Moines businessman Doug Burnett. "What can we do? My answer is revolution."

Demonstrations were also being held in Kentucky, which just passed tax increases on cigarettes and alcohol, and South Carolina, where the governor has repeatedly criticized the stimulus package. Large protests also were expected in California, New York and Atlanta.

Continued on next page

Fed survey finds faint signs of hope



In this April 11, 2009 photo, new price signs are seen posted in front of a new condo in Columbus, Ohio. The Federal Reserve said Wednesday, April 15, 2009, there are some faint signs the steep plunge in economic activity that began last fall is starting to level off. Associated Press

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve said Wednesday there are some faint signs the steep plunge in economic activity that began last year is starting to level off.

The Fed's latest survey of business conditions nationwide found five of its 12 regional banks reporting a moderation in the pace of the economic decline.

Several regions "saw signs that activity in some sectors was stabilizing at a low level ... (but) overall economic activity contracted further or remained weak," the Fed said.

The survey, known as the Beige Book, struck a slightly more positive tone than last month's report, which described an economy plunging rapidly after the financial shocks that occurred last fall.

Continued on page 3

Iran willing to build new relationship with US

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president on Wednesday sent the clearest signal yet that the Islamic Republic wants warmer ties with the U.S., just one day after Washington spoke of new strategies to address the country's disputed nuclear program. Taken together, the developments indicate that the longtime adversaries are seeking ways to return to the negotiating table and ease a nearly 30-year-old diplomatic standoff.

President Barack Obama's administration has sought to start a dialogue with Iran — a departure from the Bush administration's tough talk.

Iran had mostly dismissed the overtures, continuing to take hard-line steps like putting an American journalist on trial on espionage allegations.

Continued on page 6

Tea party

Continued from front page

"It is a nonpartisan mass organizing effort comprised of people unhappy with size of government. All you have to be is a mildly awake Republican candidate for office to get in front of that parade," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. The movement has attracted prominent Republicans, some of whom are considering a 2012 presidential bid.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich planned to address the "tea party" taking place in a New York City park Wednesday night. His advocacy group, americansolutions.com, has partnered with organizers to get word out to the group's members.

"It's the Reagan coalition reorganizing itself," Gingrich spokesman Rick Sawyer said. "If we work together,

we get what we want. As long as we remain divided, as we were in the last presidential election, opponents of our policy initiatives win."

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, another likely 2012 Republican presidential hopeful, planned to attend demonstrations in Columbia and Charleston. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal sent an e-mail to his supporters, letting them know about demonstrations in his state. In Boston, a few hundred protesters gathered on the Boston Common — a short distance from the original Tea Party — with some dressed in Revolutionary War-era garb.

Event coordinator Christen Varley, a conservative Catholic Republican, said she was thrilled with the turnout.

"Personally, I envisioned me and 100 friends on the steps of the Statehouse," she said. "I never saw this coming."



Tamara Schirrmacher dresses up as The Statue of Liberty as she holds chains that she says represents the national debt during a Tax Day Tea Party in Pleasanton, Calif., Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Protests took place around the country to demonstrate against recent bailouts and excessive government spending. Protesters gathered at state Capitols and in neighborhoods and town squares across the country Wednesday to kick off a series of tax-day protests designed to echo the rebellion of the Boston Tea Party.

Associated Press



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Tax reports say Obamas made \$2.7M last year

SHARON THEIMER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, millionaires from his best-selling books, made \$2.7 million last year and paid just under one-third of their adjusted income in federal taxes.

While the income, mostly his, was far more than the U.S. median household income of about \$50,000, it was quite a decrease from the \$4.2 million the Obamas made in 2007.

Both years, nearly all the earnings came from Obama's best-selling books. "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" brought in about \$2.5 million in royalties last year, according to copies of the returns released by the White House on Wednesday,

Americans' deadline for filing reports of income to the Internal Revenue Service, the government tax-collecting agency.

Obama earned \$139,204 as a Democratic senator from Illinois last year before leaving his seat after winning the November election. Michelle Obama received a salary of \$62,709 from the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she was an executive.

The couple's total federal tax came to \$855,323. That was 32 percent of their adjusted gross income of \$2,656,902. The Obamas overpaid by \$26,014, and elected to apply that amount to their 2009 taxes. That means their tax bill next year would be reduced by that amount.

The couple's federal tax

deductions, or expenses that reduce a tax liability, included about \$50,000 in home mortgage interest.

They reported contributing \$172,050 to charity last year, including \$25,000 each to the CARE international relief agency and the United Negro College Fund, a 65-year-old organization now better known as UNCF, dedicated to educating black Americans.

They gave a total of \$1,400 to five churches. In contrast to 2007, they gave nothing to the Trinity United Church of Christ. Barack Obama was a longtime member of the church, and gave it \$26,270 in 2007, but resigned from it and cut ties with its pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, after Wright made incendiary comments that became a

Survey

Continued from front page

The new survey was based on information each of the regional banks collected in March and early April. It will be used when Fed policymakers next meet to consider their stance on interest rates and other monetary issues on April 28-29.

The Fed is widely expected to keep a key interest rate at a record low of near zero while continuing to supply massive amounts of money to the banking system in the hopes of combatting the worst financial crisis to hit the country in seven decades.

Both President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave speeches on Tuesday that mentioned some recent signs of progress while cautioning that the recession was far from over. Information in the new Fed survey underscored that view. The report listed a host of problems in the manufacturing, home building, and travel and tourism sectors, but noted some faint signals that the steep fall in activity was starting to moderate.

In one sign of a possible rebound, the report said while home prices and new home construction declined in most parts of the country, the number of people shopping for homes was beginning to

rise, leading to a scattered pickup in sales in a number of districts.

The Fed also said several districts observed a slowdown in the pace of manufacturing declines. The Cleveland, New York and Dallas regions reported a leveling off in the pace of declines in new orders.

The nation's job market, though, is not improving. Labor market conditions were weak and reports of layoffs, reductions in work hours, temporary factory shutdowns, branch closures and hiring freezes remained

widespread across districts," the report said.

Still, private economists said the new Fed survey reinforced a slightly more upbeat view on the economy.

"This is good evidence that activity is becoming less bad across the country," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets. "Granted, things are still bad, but less so."

The Fed report said that retail spending remained sluggish but that some districts had seen a slight improvement in sales compared with the previous reporting period.



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama leave Easter worship services at St. John's Episcopal Church near the White House in Washington, Sunday, April 12, 2009.

Associated Press

campaign issue.

The Obamas' total Illinois income tax was \$78,765, their state return showed.

The White House also released Vice President Joe Biden's tax returns. Biden and his wife Jill earned \$269,256 last year.

The Bidens' main sources of income were salaries from the Senate, Widener University, Delaware Technical & Community College and

royalties from the audio rights to the vice president's memoir, "Promises to Keep."

According to tax returns released by the vice president's office, the Bidens paid \$46,952 in federal income taxes and \$11,164 in Delaware state income taxes. They donated \$1,885 to charity. Biden served in the Senate from 1973 until Jan. 15 of this year.

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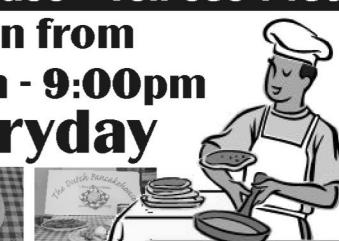
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Ex-prosecutor picked for new US 'border czar' post



In this Wednesday, May 10, 2006 file photo, State Education Secretary Alan Bersin, left, gestures during a meeting of the Board of Education in Sacramento, Calif. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is expected to name Bersin to the position of Southwest border czar Wednesday, April 15, 2009 during a visit to the Southwest border, according to officials.

Associated Press

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press Writer

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A former Justice Department official who led a 1990s crackdown on illegal border crossings was named to the new U.S. post of "border czar" Wednesday to oversee efforts to end drug-cartel violence along the U.S.-Mexico border and to slow the

tide of illegal immigration. Alan Bersin, a former U.S. attorney who also once served as California's education secretary, was named to the job by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Bersin and Napolitano spoke to reporters on a bridge over the Rio Grande linking El Paso with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, a city especially

plagued by the drug violence that has killed more than 10,650 people in that country since December 2006.

The Obama administration has promised to target border violence and work with Mexican authorities to curb drug and arms trafficking. Hundreds of federal agents, along with high-tech surveillance gear and drug-sniffing dogs, are being deployed to the Southwest. But Bersin, speaking in both Spanish and English, immediately cautioned against the exaggeration of the drug cartels' threat to residents of U.S. border states.

"We should be very cautious to not... misstate the security situation," Bersin said. He noted that there had been no direct spillover of the violence seen in northern Mexico, although cartel-affiliated drug and immigrant traffickers have engaged in kidnapping and other crimes farther north of the border. The new assistant Homeland Security secretary for

international affairs also rejected calls by state officials and others to place troops on the U.S. side of the Mexican border.

"The posse comitatus have served this country well," he said, referring to laws that prevent the U.S. military from operating as law enforcement within the U.S. Two weeks ago, Napolitano traveled to San Diego, Mexico and Laredo, Texas, to meet with officials about border enforcement and curbing violence spurred by warring Mexican drug cartels. Last year, customs officials apprehended 792,321 people who tried to get into the U.S. through the Southwest border, and immigration officials removed more than 369,000, according to Homeland Security statistics.

After announcing Bersin's appointment on the Texas-Mexico border, Napolitano was scheduled to tour ports of entry in Columbus, New Mexico and Nogales, Arizona. While there, she was to meet

with local officials and discuss coordinating efforts to disrupt smuggling and reduce illegal immigration.

Later, she was set to join President Barack Obama in Mexico City to meet with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

In his new capacity at Homeland Security, Bersin will work with international officials and their counterparts in the U.S. and border states.

From 1993 to 1998, Bersin was the federal prosecutor who led the government's crackdown on illegal immigrants at the California-Mexico border. Bersin and Napolitano were both U.S. attorneys during the Clinton administration.

During his final three years with the Justice Department, Bersin doubled as the Southwest border representative for the attorney general. Under his watch, the U.S. rolled out Operation Gatekeeper, a massive increase in border enforcement in the San Diego area; the program discouraged illegal crossings there, but migrants and smugglers reacted by choosing less populated routes to the east.

Most recently, Bersin was chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. He also served under California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as education secretary.

"President Obama could not have selected a more qualified, more experienced person to join his administration — especially when it comes to issues along our southwest border," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

Earlier, Bersin was the superintendent of San Diego public schools. At the time, Hispanic groups decried the appointment and said Operation Gatekeeper caused a steep increase in deaths by forcing immigrants to attempt treacherous mountain and desert crossings into the United States.



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NYC's new archbishop aims to renew church

RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Archbishop Timothy Dolan was installed Wednesday as the leader of Roman Catholic New York, taking the most prominent American pulpit in the church during an elaborate ceremony that drew thousands of parishioners and civic leaders to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Known for his wit and warmth, Dolan beamed as he walked down the aisle toward the altar, waving to the crowd, hugging well-wishers and stopping to shake hands in a front pew with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. David Paterson, among others who attended.

At a news conference hours earlier, Dolan said he would challenge efforts to legalize gay marriage in New York State. Paterson is expected to introduce a gay marriage bill Thursday. Gays and lesbians can already marry just across the border, in Connecticut, Massachusetts and, later this year, Vermont.

In his sermon, Dolan lamented that the church was "ridiculed for her teaching on the sanctity of marriage." He said his goal was to revive observance in the church and protect human life, "from the tiny baby in the womb to the last moment of natural passing."

"The church is a loving mother who has a zest for life and serves life everywhere, but she can become a protective 'mama bear' when the life of her innocent, helpless cubs is threatened," he said, sparking a standing ovation. "Everyone in this mega-community is a somebody with an extraordinary destiny. Everybody is a somebody in whom God has invested infinite love."

Dolan, 59, the former Milwaukee archbishop, succeeded Cardinal Edward Egan, 77, who retired after nine years in the job. Dolan is expected to eventually be named a cardinal.

The Archdiocese of New York is the nation's second-largest diocese after Los Angeles, yet it is the most visible Catholic post in the U.S. Among Dolan's predecessors was Cardinal Francis Spellman, who was so influential that his residence was dubbed "the powerhouse." Cardinal John O'Connor was the most forceful Catholic voice in the national debates of his era, especially on abortion. Dolan said in the news conference that his new job "does have an enhanced prominence that might take getting used to on my part."

Yet, he seemed to revel in the spotlight of the two-day installation that began with an evening prayer service in the cathedral Tuesday night. At Wednesday's Mass, about 150 bishops, archbishops and cardinals took part in the procession inside St. Patrick's, accompanied by hundreds of priests and other representatives of the archdiocese.

As Dolan awaited his entrance, he shook hands with police officers who were guarding the church and waved to the hundreds of onlookers kept behind barriers across the street.

"I need to see my shepherd," said Merle Paisley, a hospital worker who lives in the Bronx, who was among the crowd outside. "I need to pray for him."

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Vatican ambassador to the U.S., read a letter from Pope Benedict XVI naming Dolan to the job. After the document was notarized, Dolan formally became New York's archbishop. When he was handed the golden crosier, or bishop's staff, a symbol of his office, he joked, "Do I keep this?"

The archdiocese covers a region with 2.5 million parishioners in nearly 400 churches and an annual budget estimated to be at least half a billion dollars.

Its vast Catholic service network includes 10 colleges

and universities, hundreds of schools and aid agencies, and nine hospitals that treat about a million people annually. Dolan faces challenges identical to those for bishops nationwide: strengthening the finances of Catholic schools and parishes as Catholics move from urban areas to the suburbs; boosting the low rate of Mass attendance and serving a growing number of Latinos and other immigrants.

He read a small part of his sermon in Spanish, calling the strong faith of Hispanic Catholics, "a light for us all." He said he hoped immigrants would find the church to be the "spiritual counterpart" of the Statue of Liberty, welcoming and embracing them.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan greets worshippers at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Tuesday, April 14, 2009, moments before beginning a Solemn Vespers ceremony the day before his installation as the new leader of the Archdiocese of New York. Dolan, 59, the former Milwaukee archbishop, is taking over the most visible American job in the Roman Catholic Church and the nation's second-largest diocese after Los Angeles.

Associated Press

He noted the "deep wounds" of the clergy sex abuse scandal that erupted in 2002 and has cost American dioceses more than \$2.6 billion in settlements with victims and other expenses in the last five decades, and pledged to continue "reform, renewal and outreach" to victims. Dolan is a St. Louis native and the oldest of five children. He holds a doctorate from The Catholic University of America and is a former rector of the North American College in Rome, considered a top seminary for U.S. priests.



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Obama's Mideast envoy meets new Israeli leaders



In this photo released by Israel's Defense Ministry, U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell, right, and Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, left, talk prior to a meeting at Barak's house in Tel Aviv, Saturday, April 15, 2009. Mitchell arrived in Israel Saturday evening and will meet Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Associated Press

STEVE WEIZMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy began a new round of diplomacy Wednesday aimed at bridging the growing divide between a right-wing Israeli government and a weak

Palestinian leadership.

His first challenge will be a series of meetings with a new Israeli government that is seemingly at odds with the Obama administration over the basic outlines for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

U.S. envoy George Mitchell, on

a weeklong regional tour, said on an earlier stop in Algeria on Tuesday that the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel is "the only way" to peace.

On Thursday, Mitchell will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has not endorsed Palestinian statehood and has yet to unveil his government's policy on peace efforts. He will also talk with Netanyahu's foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who has said pledges made by the previous Israeli administration to work for Palestinian independence are no longer relevant.

He met with Defense Minister Ehud Barak at his Tel Aviv home for a little over an hour on Wednesday evening. A statement from Barak's office said he told Mitchell it was "possible and necessary (for Israel and the U.S.) to coordinate and understand one another regarding all the current issues."

Promising a vigorous push for Israel-Palestinian peace, Mitchell made his first Mideast

foray in January, just a week after Obama took office. He made a second visit with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton a month later. Since then, a general election that strengthened hawks and the religious Jewish right put Netanyahu at the head of a governing alliance softened only slightly by the inclusion of Barak's battered Labor Party, beaten into fourth place in the election.

Mitchell did not speak on his arrival Wednesday.

In addition to Netanyahu and Lieberman, he was expected to meet with opposition leader and former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and President Shimon Peres.

On Friday he is scheduled to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in the West Bank. Their government, headed by Abbas' Fatah movement, is in control only of the West Bank because their rivals in the militant Hamas group seized control of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Efforts to reconcile those factions have

so far failed, adding a serious obstacle to peace efforts.

Speaking to businessmen on Wednesday, Fayyad said Netanyahu's stated preference for concentrating on Palestinian economic growth for now, while putting statehood talks aside for some point in the future, would not bring peace. "If there is to be any two-state solution to speak of, the Israeli government must take immediate and bold steps toward ending its colonization and occupation of Palestinian territory," Fayyad said.

Visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos said after meeting Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki in Ramallah that the two-state model remains "the only option."

Moratinos said he too would meet Netanyahu and Lieberman on Thursday, seeking to learn their intentions.

"I want to listen to them," he told reporters. "The Israeli government is now evaluating its political relationships with the Palestinian government and the international community."

Iran

Continued from front page

But in his speech Wednesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad changed his tone, saying that Iran was preparing new proposals aimed at breaking an impasse with the West over its nuclear program.

"The Iranian nation is a generous nation. It may forget the past and start a new era, but any country speaking on the basis of selfishness will get the same response the Iranian nation gave to Mr. Bush," Ahmadinejad told thousands in the southeastern city of Kerman.

In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton discussed Ahmadinejad's comments during a meeting Wednesday with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"With respect to the latest speeches and remarks out of Iran, we welcome dialogue,"

Clinton said. "We've been saying that we are looking to have an engagement with Iran, but we haven't seen anything that would amount to any kind of proposal at all."

She said the six nations trying to lure Iran back to the negotiating table would have more to say in the coming days. Those countries, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany, asked Solana last week to invite Iran to a new round of talks.

Solana said Iran has not formally responded to the invitation, and he declined to comment on Ahmadinejad's remarks.

The U.S. government has declined to publicly discuss possible new strategies for dealing with Iran. The Obama administration said its immediate goal is to get Iran back to nuclear negotiations. Though there have not been any concrete breakthroughs, Mehrzad Boroujerdi, an Iranian affairs expert at New

York's Syracuse University, said Ahmadinejad's comments were a "good omen."

"It certainly signals interest in engaging with the Obama administration," he said, adding that no terms had been set for possible talks.

Iran's uranium enrichment program has been the key point of contention. The Bush administration had insisted that Iran scrap enrichment before talks could begin — a demand Iran repeatedly rejected. On Wednesday, a senior official said the U.S. would be prepared to let Tehran continue enriching uranium at the current level for some time.

Uranium enrichment can be used to produce fuel for nuclear energy or nuclear weapons. The U.S. and some of its allies accuse Tehran of seeking to build nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges, saying its nuclear program is geared toward generating electricity. There had been a few efforts in recent years to reach



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, flanked by Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, center left, and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization head Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, center right, gestures to the media after inaugurating a new facility producing uranium fuel for a planned heavy-water nuclear reactor, just outside the city of Isfahan, 255 miles south of the capital Tehran, Thursday, April 9, 2009. Ahmadinejad said Thursday his country is open to talks offered by the U.S. and other countries over its nuclear program. But he insisted the talks must be based on respect for Iran's rights, suggesting the West should not try to force Tehran to stop uranium enrichment.

Associated Press

consensus, but they appeared to go nowhere.

Two years ago, Washington briefly softened its position, and its negotiating partners told Tehran that they could accept a continuation of

enrichment for a limited time as they moved toward talks. But Iran insisted it be allowed to enrich as part of its rights under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, ending the effort.

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Most-wanted Colombia drug lord caught 'like a dog'

CESAR GARCIA

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA (AP)—Colombia's most wanted drug lord was cowering like a dog under a palm tree when he was captured Wednesday in a jungle raid involving hundreds of police officers, the defense minister said.

Daniel Rendon Herrera, alias "Don Mario," was taken in shackles to the capital to await possible extradition to the United States.

Rendon Herrera allegedly commanded hundreds of armed men in a private militia and directed a criminal organization that sent hundreds of tons of cocaine to the U.S. President Alvaro Uribe described Rendon Herrera, 43, as "one of the most feared drug traffickers in the world." Rendon Herrera's organization is responsible for 3,000 murders in the last 18 months alone, said Gen. Oscar Naranjo, who directs the national police. Police said he had offered his assassins \$1,000 for each officer they killed, in hopes of evading arrest.

Colombian officials had offered a reward of up to \$2

million for information leading to the capture of the man whose organization has allegedly served as a key link between right-wing paramilitary groups and Mexico's drug-trafficking cartels.

"This guy put bounties on the heads of government officials, so he was Public Enemy No. 1 in Colombia," said Thomas Harrigan, operations chief for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The U.S. wants to put him on trial in New York on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine into the United States, outlined in a bare-bones, four-page federal indictment filed last July and unsealed Wednesday. Such extraditions can take months.

Some 300 police officers joined the raid in the northern Colombian jungle town of San Jose de Apartado. Uribe said nine months of patient planning and intelligence work went into the operation, which he described as new proof Colombia's government is capable of combatting organized crime.

At the time of his capture, he had been cowering "like

a dog" under a palm tree for two days, Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said with evident satisfaction.

Various people helped police locate the hideout of "Don Mario," and may share parts of the reward, Santos added. Colombia's far-right militias, known as the United Self-Defense forces of Colombia, or AUC, initially formed in the 1980s to counter kidnapping and extortion by leftist rebels, but evolved into regional mafias that committed more than 10,000 murders, built lucrative cocaine trafficking operations and stole millions of acres of land, often in collusion with local political, business and military leaders, prosecutors have said.

Daniel Rendon Herrera and his brother Freddy Rendon, otherwise known as "The German" for the discipline he demanded from his troops, controlled an area of river-laced jungle near the Panama border known as a major corridor for drug and arms traffickers.

The brothers were among the last paramilitary leaders to demobilize in 2006, under a



Police officers escort Colombian drug trafficker Daniel Rendon Herrera, center, at a police airport in Bogota, Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Rendon, alias "Don Mario," was arrested in the northern Colombian city of Apartado in a raid involving 300 police, presidential spokesman Cesar Velasquez told The Associated Press.

Associated Press

2003 peace deal that promised fighters reduced sentences and protection from extradition to the United States in exchange for pledges to renounce violence.

But while his brother and other paramilitaries agreed to await justice in jail, "Don Mario" fled back to the jungle and rearmed, police say. Santos said he is particularly pleased that with Wednesday's arrest, all four paramilitary chiefs who have dropped out of the peace deal to date have been recaptured and are in the process of being extradited.

"The arrest of Rendon Herrera will create a huge gap in the leadership of the AUC, so we are very excited about the arrest, the Colombians are very excited," Harrigan said. "He was more or less a transportation expert, so it's really going to create a void in the transportation."

Santos said the government has captured 5,600 members of paramilitary groups to date, and that this latest arrest "is a message for all others: It doesn't matter what they do or where they are, eventually they will fall."

Afghan women attacked for protesting marriage law

HEIDI VOGT

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — Dozens of young women braved crowds of bearded men screaming "dogs!" on Wednesday to protest an Afghan law that lets husbands demand sex from their wives. Some of the men picked up small stones and pelted the women.

"Slaves of the Christians!" chanted the 800 or so counter-demonstrators, a mix of men and women. A line of female police officers locked hands to keep the groups apart.

The warring protests highlight the explosive nature of the women's rights debate in Afghanistan. Both sides are girding for battle over the legislation, which has sparked an international uproar since being quietly signed into law last month.

The law says a husband can demand sex with his wife every four days, unless she is ill or would be harmed by intercourse. It also regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave her home without a male escort.

Though the law would apply only to the country's Shiites, who make up less than 20 percent of Afghanistan's 30 million people, many fear its passage marks a return to Taliban-style oppression of women. The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001, required women to wear all-covering burqas and banned them from leaving home unless accompanied by a male relative.

Governments and rights groups around the world have condemned the legislation, and President Barack Obama has labeled it "abhorrent." Afghan President Hamid Karzai has remanded the law to the Justice Department for review and put enforcement on hold.

A host of Afghan intellectuals, politicians and even a number of Cabinet ministers have come out against the law. But those who decry the legislation face quick criticism from conservative Muslim clerics and their followers, as Wednesday's protests showed.

"You are a dog! You are not a Shiite woman!" one man shouted to a young woman in a head scarf.

The woman, who held a banner



Afghan female police officers link their arms to create a barrier for Shiite counter protesters during a demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. The group of some 1,000 Afghans swarmed a demonstration by 300 women Wednesday protesting against a new conservative marriage law. Some counter protesters pelted the women with small stones as police struggled to keep the two groups apart.

Associated Press

reading "We don't want Taliban law," replied quietly: "This is my land and my people."

The demonstrators chose a risky spot to hold their protest — in front of the mosque of the legislation's main backer — and were easily outnumbered

by supporters of the law. They said many women had been stopped on their way to the protest.

In the end, more women demonstrated in favor of the law than against it: A few hundred Shiite women marched

with banners to join the angry men. They blamed foreigners for inciting the protests.

"We don't want foreigners interfering in our lives. They are the enemy of Afghanistan," said 24-year-old Mariam Sajadi. Sajadi is engaged to be

married, and said she plans to ask her husband's permission to leave the house as put forth in the law. She said other articles — such as the one allowing husbands to demand sex — have been misinterpreted by Westerners prejudiced against Islam. She did not elaborate. On the other side of the shouting, Mehri Rezai, 32, urged her countrymen to reject the law. "This law treats women as if we were sheep," she said. Both sides say they're defending their constitutional rights — but Afghanistan's constitution is unclear. It defers to Islamic law as the highest authority, but also guarantees equal rights for women.

Abbas Noyan, a Shiite lawmaker who opposes the law, said he is hopeful it will be changed. But others are less sure, and even the country's minister of women's affairs, who is female, has declined to comment on the law.

New York-based Human Rights Watch maintains that the judicial review ordered by Karzai is unlikely to be truly independent because those leading the process come from a conservative Shiite background.

U.S. soldier convicted over 2007 Iraq deaths

GEORGE FREY

Associated Press Writer

VILSECK, Germany (AP) — A U.S. Army soldier was convicted Wednesday of murder in the execution-style slayings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqi detainees.

The prosecution said Master Sgt. John Hatley acted as "judge, jury and executioner" to hatch the plot and carry out the killings in spring 2007. Hatley and two others took the detainees to a canal in Baghdad's West Rasheed neighborhood where they shot them in the back of the head with 9mm pistols, the prosecution said.

An eight-strong military jury found Hatley guilty of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder after a three days of proceedings.

But the jury found him not guilty of obstruction of justice in the incident and not guilty of premeditated murder in a separate January 2007 death of an Iraqi insurgent.

Hatley and his wife, who sat directly behind him in the gallery, were unmoved as the jury foreman read out the decision. They hugged and smiled after the court adjourned and his friends and comrades in court wished him well.

The 40-year-old career soldier, who has served in the first Gulf War, Kosovo and in Iraq, will be sentenced Thursday at the U.S. Army's Rose Barracks in southern Germany. He faces the possibility of life in prison without parole.

Hatley, who has been in the Army for 20 years, had denied the charges. He could see any sentence reduced through a future military clemency process. Military cases also go through an

automatic appeal process.

Army prosecutor Capt. Derrick Grace said Wednesday that testimony had pointed to "a complete breakdown of discipline and crimes that are among the worst of a soldier."

"On two separate occasions, the accused became the judge, jury and executioner," he said.

Prosecutors said Hatley oversaw the shootings of detainees and had told his comrades they were going to "take care" of the Iraqis.

Hatley's lawyer David Court told the court-martial Wednesday there was no physical evidence that the killings ever happened: no witnesses, family members, bullet casings, blood or witnesses.

According to testimony this week and at previous courts-martial, the four Iraqis were taken into custody in spring 2007 after an exchange of fire with Hatley's unit and the discovery of weapons in a building where suspects had fled.

Two soldiers in Hatley's unit, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Mayo and then-Sgt. Michael Leahy, have been convicted of the killings at separate courts-martial earlier this year.

Another two soldiers pleaded guilty in the spring incident, one to conspiracy to commit premeditated murder and one to accessory to murder, and were sentenced to prison last year. Two others had charges of conspiracy to commit premeditated murder dropped this year.

All were with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in Baghdad. The unit is now part of the Germany-based 172nd Infantry Brigade.

French nab 11 pirates as threats mount on U.S. ships

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press Writer

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — A pirate gang that launched an abortive attack on a second U.S. ship loaded with food aid said Wednesday they were singling out American vessels and would kill their crews, while French forces detained 11 other hijackers in a high-seas raid. Pirates fired grenades and automatic weapons at the Liberty Sun, but its American crew successfully blockaded themselves inside the engine room. The ship was damaged in Tuesday's attack but escaped and was heading to Kenya under U.S. Navy guard.

A pirate whose gang attacked the aid ship admitted Wednesday that his group was targeting American ships and sailors.

"We will seek out the Americans and if we capture them we will slaughter them," said a 25-year-old pirate based in the Somali port of Harardhere who gave only his first name, Ismail.

"We will target their ships because we know their flags. Last night, an American-flagged ship escaped us by a whisker. We have showered them with rocket-propelled grenades," boasted Ismail, who did not take part in the attack on the Liberty Sun.

The move comes after U.S. Navy sharpshooters killed three pirates Sunday to win the release of a hijacked American sea captain, Richard Phillips of the Maersk Alabama.

The French forces, meanwhile, launched an early morning attack on a pirate ship after spotting it Tuesday with a surveillance helicopter and observing the pirates overnight. The raid thwarted the bandits' planned attack on the Liberian cargo ship Safmarine Asia, the French Defense Ministry said.

The statement called the pirate vessel a "mother ship" — usually a seized foreign ship that pirates use to transport speedboats far out to sea and resupply them. The ship was

intercepted 550 miles east of the Kenyan city of Mombasa. The 11 detained pirates were being held on the Nivose, a French frigate among the international fleet trying to protect shipping in the Gulf of Aden.

France has traditionally been aggressive in fighting piracy — this was its ninth military operation against pirates. Three Somali pirates were in the French city of Rennes on Wednesday facing judicial investigation after being captured in a hostage rescue Friday. Several other pirates are also in French custody after being seized last year. Tuesday's attack on the Liberty Sun foiled the reunion between Phillips and the 19-man crew he saved with his heroism. Phillips had planned to meet his crew in Mombasa and fly home with them Wednesday, but was stuck on the USS Bainbridge when it was diverted to help the Liberty Sun.

The crew left without him, flying to Andrews Air Force base in Maryland in a chartered

plane.

"We are very happy to be going home," crewman William Rios of New York City said before departing Wednesday. "(But) we are disappointed to not be reuniting with the captain in Mombasa. He is a very brave man."

Third mate Colin Wright, from Galveston, Texas told ABC's "Good Morning America" that fighting off pirates gave him a new appreciation for life.

"I'll just love to hug my mother," Wright said. "Everybody out there give your mother a hug. Yeah, don't wait. Life is precious. And what a beautiful world." The Liberty Sun had left Houston with a crew of 20 American sailors and a load of aid for the U.N. World Food Program. It warded off the pirates with evasive maneuvers, according to U.S. Navy Lt. Nathan Christensen of the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet. "We are under attack by pirates, we are being hit by rockets. Also bullets," Liberty Sun crewman Thomas Urbik, 26, wrote his mother in an e-



This aerial photo taken from a French Navy helicopter and released by the French Defense Ministry on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, showing a pirate "mother ship", as it is intercepted by French military officers on Wednesday, some 550 miles east of the Kenyan port of Mombasa. The French Defense Ministry says it detained 11 pirates during a French assault on a pirate "mother ship" and thwarted a pirate attack on a Liberian-registered vessel.

Associated Press

mail. "We are barricaded in the engine room and so far no one is hurt. (A) rocket penetrated the bulkhead but the hole is small. Small fire, too, but put out."

By the time the Bainbridge arrived five hours later, the pirates had left. A small group of armed U.S. sailors from the Bainbridge went aboard the Liberty Sun to ensure its safe journey to Mombasa.

Despite President Barack Obama's vow to take action against the rise in banditry and the deaths of five pirates in French and U.S. hostage rescues, brigands have seized

four vessels and more than 75 hostages since Sunday's dramatic rescue of Phillips.

Pirates released a Greek-owned cargo ship Wednesday and Greek authorities said all 24 crewmen on the Titan were in good health. The ship had been hijacked March 19 in the Gulf of Aden.

In all, Somali pirates are holding over 280 sailors on 15 ships — at least 76 of those sailors captured in the last few days. Pirates have attacked 79 ships this year and hijacked 19 of them, according to the International Maritime Bureau, a piracy watchdog.

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NBA Roundup

Pierce leads Celtics over 76ers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Paul Pierce hit the winning jumper, scored 31 points and hindered Philadelphia's shot at the Eastern Conference's sixth seed in Boston's 100-98 win over the Sixers on Tuesday night.

Kevin Garnett missed the meaningless game for Boston to rest his strained knee and Ray Allen served a one-game suspension. Pierce made seven 3-pointers to overcome the absence of the two All-Stars, which had to make the Sixers wonder how they could win a first-round series against a loaded and focused Celtics team. The Celtics already had the second seed in the East locked up and could face the Sixers in the first round of the playoffs. The Sixers, though, could move up a spot and play Orlando if they win Wednesday night in Cleveland and the Raptors beat Chicago.

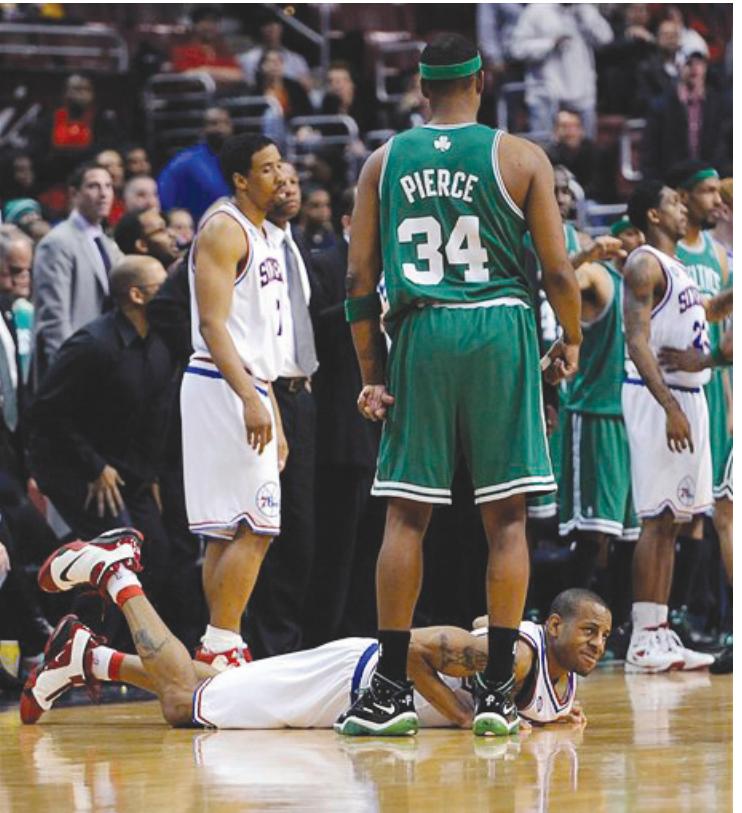
The Cavaliers, however, are 39-1 at home and are attempting to match the best home record in NBA history. The Sixers are only 16-24 on the road and have lost six straight games.

Andre Iguodala led the Sixers with 25 points and Thaddeus Young had 18.

Hawks 81, Heat 79

At Atlanta, Flip Murray scored 17 points to lead Hawks reserves past Heat scrubs in a playoff preview that was more like a preseason game. With both teams locked into their postseason position — they'll play Game 1 in Atlanta this weekend — there was little incentive for either to give significant minutes to top players. They didn't.

Miami star Dwyane Wade, coming off a career-best 55 points against the New York Knicks, didn't even bother



Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala lies on the floor in front of Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce after Iguodala missed his final shot in an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in Philadelphia. The Celtics beat the 76ers 100-98.

Associated Press

dressing. Neither did Jermaine O'Neal or Udonis Haslem, the latter recovering from a deep cut on his right thumb.

Michael Beasley led the Heat with 23 points and 13 rebounds in only 24 minutes. The Hawks rested Maurice Evans and Zaza Pachulia, and kept their starters on the bench much of the night. Speedy Claxton, a \$25 million free-agent bust, actually played for the first time in more than two years.

Lakers 125, Jazz 112

At Los Angles, Andrew Bynum scored 22 points in his best effort since returning from injury and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Utah Jazz to close the regular season with their sixth consecutive home victory.

The Lakers tied the 1986-87 team with their 65th victory, the third-best record in franchise history, trailing only

the 1971-72 team (69) and 1999-00 team (67).

Pau Gasol added 20 points and nine rebounds, Kobe Bryant and Lamar Odom had 16 points each, and Sasha Vujacic 16 points for the Lakers.

Deron Williams had 25 points and 13 assists for the Jazz, and reserve Andrei Kirilenko added 20 points to go with 16 points by Carlos Boozer and 14 by Ronnie Brewer.

Bynum added four rebounds and three assists in his fourth game back after missing 32 games because of a torn right knee ligament.

The Lakers will open the playoffs this weekend against the Jazz, who ended their schedule in the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot.

In the NBA's other games it was LA Lakers 125, Utah 112; and Atlanta 81, Heat 79.

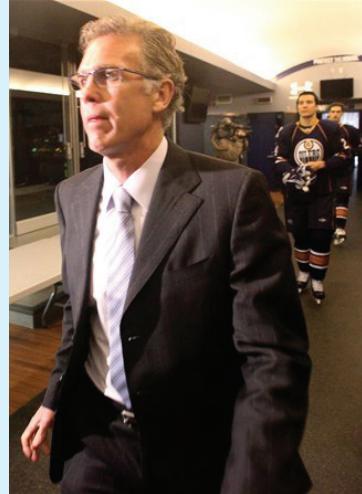
MacTavish fired as Oilers coach

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Craig MacTavish was fired as coach of the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday after they failed to make the NHL playoffs for the third straight year.

The ouster came on the same day the NHL playoffs began, and general manager Steve Tambellini said the team needed a fresh look behind the bench.

"He gave everything he possibly could to help this team get better," Tambellini said during a news conference. "But we both agree that it is time for a change."

The Oilers finished 11th in the Western



Edmonton Oilers coach Craig MacTavish heads back to the dressing room after a team photo was taken at Rexall Place in Edmonton, Alberta, on Monday, April 13, 2009. The Oilers missed the NHL hockey playoffs for the third straight year.

Associated Press

Conference with a record of 38-9-35 for 85 points. This was the fifth time in seven seasons they have not reached the playoffs.

"We shouldn't be comfortable when we're sitting here out of the playoffs," Tambellini said. "Is there emotion when you have to let a quality coach go? Yeah, there is emotion. But that's the hard part of this business. Decisions have to be made for us to get better."

The Oilers were a long way from 2006 when they made it to the Stanley Cup finals, losing in seven games to Carolina. MacTavish had just six players left from that team. This year, his players were younger and more skilled but lacked the grit and gamesmanship of the club that came within one game of the title.

This week, MacTavish acknowledged that toughness was an issue.

"When you evolve from a team that would lay it all on the line and then you try to integrate a bunch of skill, it's got to be productive," he said. "Virtually all year, we're trying to get nonconfrontational players into confrontational areas where we're going to score goals. It was a losing battle from a lot of perspectives."

MacTavish never coaxed consistent performances from forwards Shawn Horcoff and Ales Hemsky. Dustin Penner played everywhere from the first line to the fourth.

Erik Cole struggled before being traded to Carolina at the deadline for Patrick O'Sullivan. Sam Gagner had a poor first half before finding his stride. Robert Nilsson was erratic.

AL Roundup

Burnett leads Yankees to win

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — A.J. Burnett took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning in his second start since signing an \$82.5 million, five-year deal for the New York Yankees, and Nick Swisher homered for the third time in four games in a 7-2 win over Tampa Bay on Tuesday night. Mark Teixeira drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly off J.P. Howell (0-1) after missing New York's previous three games with tendinitis in left wrist.

Derek Jeter added a three-run homer in the ninth.

Burnett (2-0) allowed one baserunner until the seventh, when Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford fouled off three 0-2 pitches before lining a single to left and later scoring on Carlos Pena's RBI single.

Tampa Bay added a second run in the inning on Pat Burrell's sacrifice fly to make it 2-all heading into the eighth.

Burnett allowed two runs and three hits, walked one and struck out nine in eight innings — taming a torrid offense that had 17 hits in each of its previous two games, including a 15-5 rout of the Yankees on Monday night.

Mariners 3, Angels 2, 10 innings

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. was a winner in his return to Seattle.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a leadoff double in the 10th inning and the Mariners got the winning run on a throwing error by Angels pitcher Scot Shields. Griffey, 39, went 1-for-3 with a walk in his first home game for the Mariners since Sept. 26, 1999.

Gutierrez, playing his first home game since Seattle acquired him from Cleveland in December, doubled off Shields (0-1) before Yuniesky Betancourt dropped a sacrifice down the third-base line. Shields fielded it cleanly but his hurried throw was well high and wide of first base. The ball caromed off the railing in front of the box seats and down the right-field line and Gutierrez scored.

Twins 3, Blue Jays 2, 11 innings

At Minneapolis, Joe Crede's double off the center-field fence in the 11th inning scored Justin Morneau from first base, giving Minnesota a victory over Toronto. Glen Perkins held the highest-scoring team in the majors to two runs in eight innings for the Twins, who snapped a 10-game losing streak to the Blue Jays.

Jesse Carlson (0-1) took the loss for Toronto, spoiling the second consecutive impressive outing from rookie Ricky Romero. He gave up two runs and eight hits with no walks in eight innings.

Jesse Crain (1-0) pitched two

scoreless innings in relief of Perkins, who gave up seven hits with one walk and four strikeouts.

Royals 9, Indians 3

At Kansas City, John Buck broke open a tight game with a grand slam for his second homer of the night and had a career-high five RBIs for the Twins.

Buck made history on Sunday, hitting the first homer at renovated Kauffman Stadium against the Yankees. Back in the lineup after a day off, he hit a leadoff home run off Carl Pavano (0-2) in the fifth inning, then launched his second career grand slam off Vinnie Chulk in the eighth to put the Royals up 9-3.



Florida Marlins' Dan Uggla hits a two-run single in the third inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Dan Uggla drove in three runs and Chris Volstad and two relievers combined on a four-hitter as the Florida Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves 5-1 on Tuesday night. The Marlins are a major league-best 6-1 — all against NL East opponents — for their best start since opening 8-1 in 1997, when they won the World Series.

Volstad (2-0) gave up three hits and one run in seven innings. He struck out four and walked two while lowering his ERA to 1.50. He has allowed only five hits in 12 innings.

Uggla drove in two runs with a third-inning single off Javier Vazquez (0-1), who struck out 12 in six innings.

Kelly Johnson led off the fourth with his third homer for Atlanta's first hit off Volstad. Leo Nunez and Matt Lindstrom each pitched a scoreless inning in relief of Volstad.

Diamondbacks 7, Cardinals 6, 10 innings

At Phoenix, Eric Byrnes broke out of a slump with a two-out RBI single in the 10th inning that gave Arizona a victory over St. Louis.

Long after the Cardinals lost starting pitcher Chris Carpenter to a ribcage injury, Byrnes, who had one hit in his first 17 at-bats, lined the first delivery from Brad Thompson (0-1) into



New York Yankees pitcher A.J. Burnett delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Marlins improve to 6-1 with win over Braves

left field to score Justin Upton, who had snapped out of an 0-for-15 slide with a single and reached third with two outs.

The hit made a winner of Tony Pena (2-0) and ended a five-game win streak for the Cardinals, who removed Carpenter with a strained left ribcage in the fourth.

The Diamondbacks took a 6-4 lead in the eighth when pinch-hitter Conor Jackson hit a three-run homer, but St. Louis tied it in the ninth on singles by Colby Rasmus and Albert Pujols off closer Chad Qualls.

Arizona also got a pinch-hit homer from Mark Reynolds in the fifth.

Carpenter got hurt when he grounded out to end the top of the fourth, team spokesman Melody Yount said. The 2005 NL Cy Young Award winner went to the mound to warm up before the bottom of the inning, then called for a trainer. The Cardinals led 3-0 when he was removed.

Reds 6, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Bronson Arroyo allowed four hits in six-plus innings, leading Cincinnati to a convincing win.

Arroyo (2-0) was bothered by a flare-up of carpal tunnel syndrome during spring training and didn't look particularly sharp in winning his first outing of the season. But this time he gave up his only run on a homer by J.J. Hardy.

Jerry Hairston Jr. hit a two-run shot for the Reds, who took the first two games of the series and will go for a sweep Wednesday.

Hardy's second homer of the season was about the only highlight for the Brewers, who have lost four straight and six of eight to start the season. Milwaukee got a decent performance from starter Manny Parra (0-2), who gave up three runs in six innings.

In other National League games it was Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 1; and Arizona 7, St. Louis 6 in 10 innings.

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Isiah Thomas points to someone in the crowd during a news conference that introducing him as the new men's college basketball coach at Florida International University, Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in Miami. Associated Press

Thomas giving salary back to Florida Intl.

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Here's a sign of how badly Isiah Thomas wanted to return to coaching basketball: He's working for free at Florida International University. At his introductory news conference Wednesday, Thomas said his salary the first year will be donated back to the school's athletic department. Thomas was fired by the New York Knicks last year. The team still owes him around \$12 million for the final two years of his deal there.

FIU athletic director Pete Garcia said that when Thomas learned about layoffs and budget cuts, he told the university president that the school should keep his salary. Thomas arrived outside FIU's basketball arena at 10:25 a.m. Wednesday, riding passenger in a sleek black Mercedes. Even before he could get out of the car, three well-wishers couldn't wait to greet him.

"Hey! There he is!" shouted one of the men, all of whom got handshakes from Thomas before the car pulled into a parking space. Thomas said he took the FIU job because he enjoys challenges. He said he talked to Bob Knight, his former coach at Indiana, and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, about what it took to build college programs.

"I like rolling up my sleeves. I like taking some from the bottom and building it to the top," said Thomas, who led the Detroit Pistons to two straight NBA titles as a player in 1989-90. "There's a lot of risk in that and there is also a lot of reward in that. But that's how I grew up."



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Capturan a “Don Mario”, el hombre más buscado en Colombia

BOGOTA - El más buscado cabecilla de grupos narcoparamilitares, a cuya organización las autoridades le atribuyen el envío de hasta 100 toneladas de cocaína a Estados Unidos y 3.000 asesinatos, fue capturado el miércoles en una región selvática del norte del país y trasladado hasta la capital colombiana en donde quedó recluido.

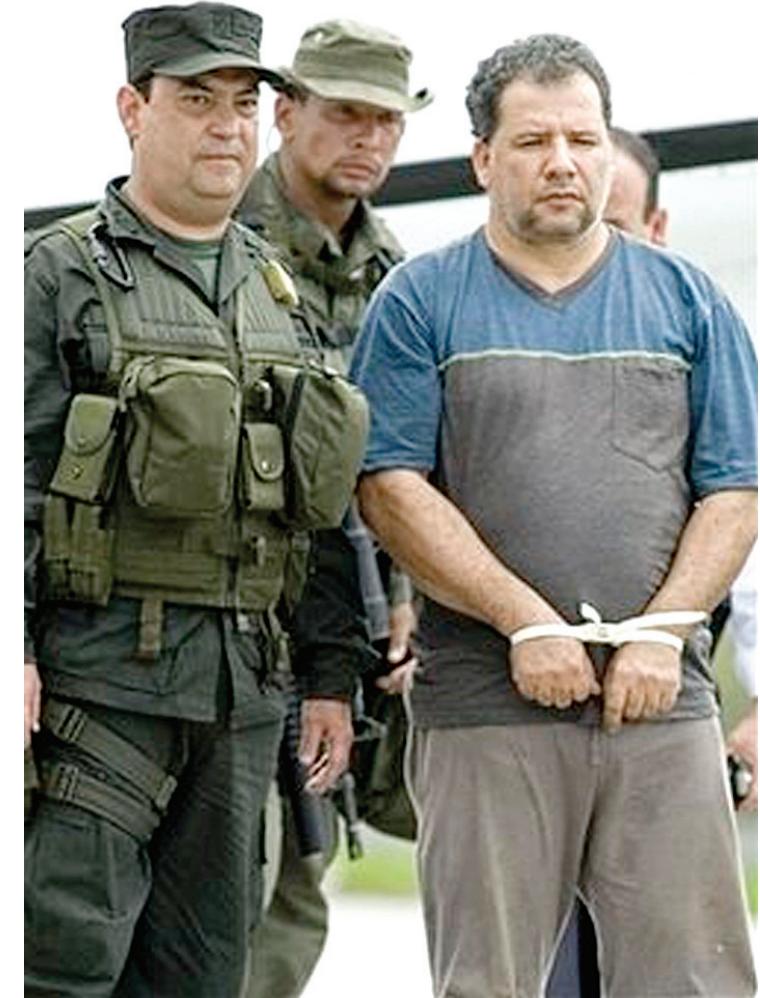
Daniel Rendón Herrera, alias “Don Mario”, fue capturado tras ser acechado durante días por las fuerzas de seguridad que finalmente dieron con el “acurrucado debajo de una

palma”, informó el ministro de Defensa Juan Manuel Santos. “Este es un gran día para la policía y la fuerza pública”, aseguró el ministro de Defensa, Juan Manuel Santos, quien encabezó la rueda de prensa para presentar a alias

“Don Mario” en la base antinarcóticos de la policía, en donde aterrizó el helicóptero que lo trajo desde la región del Urabá, departamento de Antioquia, a unos 450 kilómetros al norte de Bogotá. Santos afirmó que al detenido se le sindica haber enviado a

Estados Unidos “unas cien toneladas de cocaína”. En la misma rueda de prensa, el general Oscar Naranjo, director de la Policía, aseguró que en los últimos 18 meses la organización de “Don Mario” pudo haber asesinado a 3.000 personas.

“Don Mario”, que era el hombre más buscado del país, fue mostrado un par de minutos a la prensa y después transportado bajo estrictas medidas de seguridad a una sede policial en el noroccidente de la capital colombiana.



Petrobras anuncia otro hallazgo de petróleo en el mar

Rio de Janeiro - La petrolera estatal Petrobras informó que ha descubierto un nuevo yacimiento de crudo en aguas profundas en la Cuenca Santos, frente a la costa del estado de Sao Paulo. Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. aún no ha revelado cuántos barriles podría contener el nuevo descubrimiento, pero el año pasado se calculó que el bloque de la Cuenca Santos rendiría entre 3.000 millones y 4.000 millones de barriles de crudo ligero recuperable y gas natural.

El hallazgo más reciente está a unos 340 kilómetros (210 millas) de la costa de Sao Paulo en depósitos por debajo del manto de sal a unos 4,9 kilómetros (tres millas) bajo el nivel del mar.

Petrobras dijo el miércoles que el descubrimiento fue realizado en conjunto con la petrolera española Repsol YPF y el grupo británico BG PLC.

Escapan internas junto con sus bebés de cárcel de Brasil

Brasil - Seis internas escaparon junto con sus bebés de una unidad carcelaria donde se les permitía estar con sus recién nacidos, indicaron las autoridades, y posteriormente fueron detenidas de nuevo.

Funcionarios indicaron que las mujeres emplearon cuchillos improvisados para superar a los guardias y escapar de la prisión en las afueras de Sao Paulo el lunes. Dos perros de guardia fueron hallados drogados. El policía Luiz Ferretti dijo el martes que las seis mujeres fueron recapturadas, y el director de la cárcel indicó que los bebés estaban bien.

Se le permite a las internas en la unidad, similar a un hospital, dar pecho a sus bebés hasta que éstos tengan seis meses, y luego son transferidas a otras instalaciones mientras que sus pequeños son entregados a familiares.

Las autoridades dijeron que otras tres mujeres escaparon sin sus bebés. Una permanece prófuga.

El Papa nombra nuevos obispos en Brasil y Colombia

Ciudad de Vaticano - El papa Benedicto XVI nombró como obispo de Bauru, Brasil, a monseñor Caetano Ferrari y como obispo auxiliar de la arquidiócesis de Cali, Colombia, al sacerdote José Daniel Falla Robles, informó el miércoles la oficina de prensa de la Santa Sede.

Monseñor Ferrari nació el 30 de julio de 1942 en Pirajuí, estado de Sao Paulo. Recibió la ordenación sacerdotal el 27 de diciembre de 1970.

Ha sido profesor en el colegio

diocesano de Lages (1973-1975); director administrativo de la universidad de “San Francisco” en Bragança Paulista (1976-1985); ministro provincial de los franciscanos en Sao Paulo, desde 1994 y era desde 2002 obispo coadyutor de Franca.

Asimismo, el Papa nombró como obispo auxiliar de la arquidiócesis de Cali, Colombia, al sacerdote José Daniel Falla Robles, quien era hasta ahora rector del santuario de “Monserrat”, asignándole la sede titular

episcopal de Calama. Falla Robles nació en Bogotá el 7 de octubre de 1956. Recibió la ordenación sacerdotal el 28 de noviembre de 1992.

Ha sido rector del Seminario Menor archidiocesano (1994-1995), párroco de “Nuestra Señora del Campo” (1996), director de la Fundación “Caja de Auxilios del Clero” (desde 1996), párroco de “San Diego” (2002-2004).

Desde 2004 es rector del santuario de “Monserrat”.



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Delicious and juicy cuts of mouth-watering steaks are joined by hearty side dishes with a typical Argentine Chimichurri Herb Sauce to discerningly compliment your Steak. All this is offered up by top-notch servers who take all twenty impressive cuts of their beef seriously.

Because no Parilla is complete without a magnificent bottle of red wine, your server can recommend a spectacular choice from the extensive wine list.

And speaking of Sizzle, the Succulent Steaks aren't the only things that sizzle nightly. The Tango Argentine Parilla hosts Live Music where the ambience is hotter than ever.

Tango Argentine Parilla is located in ARAWAK GARDENS in the high rise hotel section.

www.tangoaruba.com

Open Nightly 5pm until 11pm

Located at the Arawak Garden

Reservations are Suggested. Telephone 586 - 8600



Café the Plaza
(at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)
International Cuisine
Phone: 583-8826
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music.
A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices
Open from 10.00 am - 01.00 pm
7 days a week
www.cafetheplaza.com

Tango Argentine Grill
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Charcoal Grill
Phone: 586-8600
Dinner and Daily Live Music. World famous Argentine beef prepared on open charcoal grill.
Open from 5.00 pm - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.tangoaruba.com

Salt & Pepper
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Tapas
Phone: 586-3280
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.
Open from 7.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.saltandpepperaruba.com

MooMba Beach
(between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)
International Cuisine
Phone: 586-5365
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music. Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from 7.00 am - 11.00 pm
Bar open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am
www.moomba Beach.com

Sopranos Piano Bar
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
Bar with Live Entertainment
Phone: 586-8622
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from 5.00 pm - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.sopranospianobar.com

Matilde Restaurant (Downtown)
International Cuisine
AAA/4 Diamond Award
Phone: 583-9200
Lunch and Dinner
A refined dining experience.
Restaurant open from 11.30 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.matildearuba.com

Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill (Royal Plaza Downtown)
International & Latin Cuisine
Phone: 583-3632
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from 11.00 am - 09.00 pm, Bar open from 11.00 am - 04.00 am
www.mambojamboaruba.com

Hadicurari Restaurant (between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
International and Seafood Cuisine
Phone: 586-2288
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
'Seafood with a view'
Restaurant open from 8.00 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM

